

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-22 are pending in the present application. In the Final Office Action mailed November 17, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 10, 12-15, 17, 19, 21, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kimura (USP 6,564,080). The Examiner next rejected claims 16 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura in view of Machida (US Pub. 2002/0115929).

Claims 1-5 and 7-9 were allowed. Claims 11 and 18 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Such indication is appreciated.

Applicant has amended claim 10 to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 11, and therefore has canceled claim 11. Similarly, Applicant has amended claim 17 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 18, and herein canceled claim 18.

Therefore, in light of at least the foregoing, Applicant respectfully believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. As a result, Applicant respectfully requests timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-17, and 19-22.

Applicant hereby authorizes charging of Deposit Account No. 07-0845 for any additional fees associated with entering the aforementioned claims.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of these Amendments and Remarks and cordially invites the Examiner to call the undersigned, should the Examiner consider any matters unresolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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